

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12954 250330Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 HEW-06 IO-14 MED-03 AID-05
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 465

UNCLAS TOKYO 12954

OES/APT/BMP FOR WILLIAM WALSH

DEPT PASS DHEW/PHS/OIH FOR DR. KING; PHS/NIH/NIAID FOR
DR. KRAUSE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, JA
SUBJECT: B-TYPE HEPATITIS

1. A GROUP OF 11 MEDICAL SCIENTISTS AND GYNECOLOGISTS IN
TOKYO HAS REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED MECHANISM UNDER WHICH B-TYPE
HEPATITIS VIRUS (HB VIRUS) IS PRENATALLY TRANSMITTED FROM
MOTHER TO CHILD. RESERACH WAS UNDERTAKEN UNDER CONTRACT WITH
TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT.

2. GROUP EXAMINED 17,190 PREGNANT WOMEN IN TOKYO AND
ULTIMATELY THEIR NEWBORN BABIES TO CHECK WHETHER THEY
CARRIED HBE ANTIGEN, AND FOUND THAT 380 MOTHERS, OR 2.21 PER
CENT OF THE MOTHERS EXAMINED, WERE VIRUS CARRIERS AND THAT
29.7 PER CENT OF THE VIRUS CARRIERS TRANSMITTED DISEASE TO
THEIR NEWBORN BABIES. THE INFECTED NEWBORN BABIES
ARE DESTINED TO BE LIFE-TIME CARRIERS OF THE VIRUS.
THE VIRUS CARRIERS ARE APT TO DEVELOP CHRONIC
INFLAMMATION OF LIVER, CIRRHOSIS OF LIVER OR LIVER
CANCER. THROUGH THEIR DETAILED EXAMINATIONS, THEY
FOUND THAT HBE ANTIGEN, HBE ANTIBODY AND DNA ENZYME
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IN BLOOD SERUM PLAYED DECISIVE ROLE IN THE INFECTION
OF B-TYPE HEPATITIS.

3. GROUP CLAIMS THAT INFECTION OF HB VIRUS COULD BE
PREDICTED BEFORE DELIVERY BY CHECKING VIRUS ACTIVITY
IN MOTHER'S SERA. THEY SUGGEST USE OF INTERFERON TO
CURB PROLIFERATION OF HB VIRUS IN SERUM, THEREBY

PREVENTING TRANSMISSION OF THE DISEASE FROM OTHERS
TO BABIES. ANIMAL TESTS ARE NOW UNDER WAY TO
DETERMINE WHETHER INTERFERON HAS SIDE-EFFECTS ON HUMAN
HEALTH.

4. FINDINGS WILL BE REPORTED AT WHO MEETING ON VIRAL
HEPATITIS TO BE HELD AT KUALA LUMPUR NEXT NOVEMBER.
MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: TBIO, JA
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